

# FOCUS

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MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & SENIOR SERVICES  
CENTER FOR HEALTH INFORMATION MANAGEMENT & EVALUATION  
JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI 65102-0570  
(573) 751-6272

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## 2003 Vital Statistics

### LATEST ANNUAL STATISTICS FIND GOOD, BAD CHANGES OVER PAST DECADE

While health statistics often show little change from any year to the next, looking back a decade can reveal significant changes. The latest annual statistics available from the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, compared to a decade earlier, prove that point.

The latest statistics found that from 1993 to 2003, heart disease mortality rates decreased by 20 percent, stroke death rates decreased by 14 percent and cancer death rates decreased by 7 percent.

“We are very pleased to see an overall downward trend in heart disease, stroke and cancer deaths over

the past decade,” said Dick Dunn, Director of the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services.

In less positive findings, however, unintentional injury mortality increased by 21 percent and chronic lung disease mortality increased 11 percent during the 10-year time period. Among specific types of unintentional injuries, poisoning death rates (which include drug overdoses) tripled from 1993 to 2003, fatal fall death rates increased by 37 percent and motor vehicle crash death rates increased by 14 percent in this time frame.

“We are disappointed to see an increase in injury deaths and deaths from chronic lung disease, as both of these are largely preventable,” Dunn said.

**Table 1**

#### Vital Statistics for Missouri: 1993, 2002 and Provisional 2003

	Numbers			Rates per 1,000 Population		
	1993	2002	2003 (Prov)	1993	2002	2003 (Prov)
Births	75,146	75,167	76,960	14.3	13.2	13.5
Deaths	53,655	55,636	55,195	10.2	9.8	9.7
Natural increase	21,491	19,531	21,765	4.1	3.4	3.8
Marriages	44,380	41,552	41,295	8.4	7.3	7.2
Divorces	26,438	22,593	22,166	5.0	4.0	3.9
Infant deaths	630	638	599	8.4*	8.5*	7.8*
Abortions	15,415	12,250	12,476	205.1*	163.0*	162.1*
Population (1000s)	5,271	5,673	5,709			

\*Per 1,000 live births

(continued on next page)

**Table 2****Leading Causes of Death with Rates: Missouri Residents 1993, 2002 and Provisional 2003**

	<i>Numbers</i>			<i>Rates per 100,000 Population</i>		
	1993	2002	2003 (Prov)	1993	2002	2003 (Prov)
<u>Leading Causes of Death</u>						
Heart	18,742	16,574	16,310	355.6	292.3	285.9
Cancer	12,192	12,264	12,295	231.3	216.3	215.6
Lung cancer	3,784	3,775	3,772	71.8	66.6	66.1
Stroke	3,813	3,880	3,556	72.3	68.4	62.3
Chronic lung disease	2,446	2,857	2,942	46.4	50.4	51.6
Unintentional injury	2,023	2,575	2,643	38.4	45.4	46.3
Motor vehicle	977	1,175	1,202	18.5	20.7	21.1
Falls	376	475	556	7.1	8.4	9.7
Poisonings	127	350	417	2.4	6.2	7.3
Other	543	575	468	10.3	10.1	8.2
Diabetes	1,201	1,616	1,653	22.8	28.5	29.0
Pneumonia & influenza	2,187	1,621	1,624	41.5	28.6	28.5
Alzheimer's disease	391	1,192	1,293	7.4	21.0	22.7
Nephritis & nephrosis	550	1,064	1,092	10.4	18.8	19.1
Septicemia	461	806	734	8.7	14.2	12.9
Suicide	697	690	691	13.2	12.2	12.1
Homicide	601	371	333	11.4	6.5	5.8
AIDS	452	123	124	8.6	2.2	2.2
Maternal Deaths	4	9	12	9.2**	12.0**	15.6**

\*\*Per 100,000 live births

The five leading causes of death remained the same in 2003 as in 2002:

1. Heart disease
2. Cancer
3. Stroke
4. Chronic lung disease
5. Unintentional injuries

Heart disease and stroke deaths decreased (by 1.6 percent and 8.4 percent, respectively) from 2002 to 2003, and chronic lung disease and unintentional injury deaths both increased by about 3 percent. The number of cancer deaths increased slightly, but the rate of death (# of deaths per 100,000 population) decreased.

In findings among other leading causes of death:

- Diabetes passed pneumonia and influenza as the sixth leading cause of death. Deaths due to diabetes increased 2.2 percent in 2003 from one year earlier, and by 38 percent since 1993. Increases in obesity and better reporting were factors in the diabetes mortality increase.
- The seventh and eighth leading causes of death, Alzheimer's disease and kidney disease, both increased in 2003.
- The tenth leading cause of death, Septicemia or blood poisoning, decreased in 2003.

- Homicides decreased by 10 percent in 2003, from 371 in 2002 to 333. This is the lowest count of Missouri homicides since 1966.

The 2003 provisional statistics found that Missourians reached a record 76.4 years of life expectancy. This is up slightly from 76.2 years in 2002, but still below the national average of 77.4 years in 2002. Missouri male life expectancy also reached a record high in 2003 of 73.7 years while female life expectancy remained at 78.9 years. Overall mortality decreased slightly in 2003 as there were 9.7 deaths per 1,000 population compared with 9.8 in 2002.

The infant death rate decreased in 2003, from 8.5 to 7.8 per 1,000 live births, following a huge increase in 2002 of 15 percent. However, the Missouri infant death rate remains above the national rate of

6.7 per 1,000 live births and is the second highest annual rate since 1994. The decrease in 2003 infant mortality was entirely among post-neonatal (aged 1-11 months) deaths. The neonatal (under 28 completed days) mortality rate remained at 5.6 per 1,000 live births, the highest rates since 1991. Increased preterm and multiple births are factors affecting the high neonatal death rate.

Preterm (less than 37 weeks gestation) rates increased slightly from 13.3 percent in 2002 to 13.4 percent in 2003, but were 13 percent higher than the 1993 rate of 11.9 percent. Multiple births in 2003 were approximately the same as 2002, but the rate of 3.4 percent was 26 percent higher than the rate ten years earlier.

Infant mortality decreased among both white and African-American infants in 2003. The white in-

**Table 3****Trends in Maternal and Child Health Statistics: Missouri 1993, 2002 and Provisional 2003**

	<i>Numbers</i>			<i>Percents</i>		
	1993	2002	2003 (Prov.)	1993	2002	2003 (Prov.)
Infant Deaths	630	638	599	8.4*	8.5*	7.8*
White	432	437	420	7.1*	7.1*	6.6*
Black	191	188	164	14.7*	17.2*	14.9*
Low Birth Weight	5,639	6,057	6,194	7.5	8.1	8.0
White	3,804	4,339	4,524	6.3	7.0	7.1
Black	1,742	1,530	1,489	13.4	13.9	13.5
Inadequate Prenatal Care	11,484	7,705	7,383	15.6	10.7	10.1
White	6,894	5,233	5,145	11.5	8.7	8.4
Black	4,371	2,113	1,926	34.4	21.3	19.8
Preterm (<37 weeks)	8,918	9,979	10,329	11.9	13.3	13.4
Multiple Births	1,999	2,618	2,618	2.7	3.5	3.4
Birth Spacing<18 mos.	5,677	4,568	4,632	13.2	10.7	10.8
Out-of Wedlock Births	24,320	26,489	27,363	32.4	35.3	35.6
Teen(10-19) Births	10,657	8,964	8,775	14.2	11.9	11.4
Early Teen (10-17) Births	4,086	2,785	2,843	5.4	3.7	3.7
Smoking During Pregnancy	16,556	13,607	13,895	22.0	18.1	18.1
Medicaid Births	29,526	31,891	33,436	40.5	44.3	45.4
WIC Births	28,124	30,124	30,897	38.6	41.9	42.0
Food Stamps Births	17,773	14,042	15,708	24.4	19.5	21.4
Live Births	75,146	75,167	76,960			

\*Infant Death rates are per 1,000 live births.

infant death rate decreased from 7.1 in 2002 to 6.6 per 1,000 live births in 2003 and the African-American decreased from 17.2 to 14.9. The ratio between white and African-American is still about two and a quarter to one.

Live births increased by 2.4 percent in 2003 from 75,167 to 76,960, the highest Missouri live birth total since 1991. Age-specific fertility rates increased for age groups 20-24, 25-29, 30-34 and 40-44. The general fertility rate also increased 2.4 percent from 62.0 to 63.5 per 1,000 females aged 15 to 44.

Other maternal and child health indicators show the following in 2003:

- The rate of inadequate prenatal care decreased from 10.7 percent in 2002 to 10.1 percent in 2003, a record low.
- The low-birth-weight (less than 5.5 pounds) rate decreased slightly, but remained 7 percent higher than the 1993 rate.
- The rate of out-of wedlock births reached an-

other record high, 35.6 percent.

- Short (less than 18 months) spacing between births increased among 2003 births from 10.7 percent in 2002 to 10.8 percent.
- The rates of Medicaid, WIC, and Food Stamp births all increased in 2003. These trends probably reflect the poor economy during most of 2003.
- Abortions increased slightly in 2003, from 12,250 to 12,476, but were 19 percent lower than the 1993 count of 15,415.
- Teen births decreased by 2.1 percent from 2002 and 17.6 percent since 1993.

Marriages and divorces both declined in 2003. Marriages decreased from 41,552 to 41,295 while divorces decreased from 22,593 to 22,166. Both represent long-term declines. Marriages are at their lowest level since 1965, while divorces haven't been lower since 1974 (the first year no-fault divorce became law). These trends are certainly related, as there are fewer couples marrying there are also fewer couples available to divorce.

